Center for Modern Greek Studies
San Francisco State University

Μαντατοφόρος*

The Nikos Kazantzakis Chair

Modern Greek Studies Foundation

Summer 1995 *MANDATOPHOROS: Bearer of news, messenger Vol. 11, No. 3

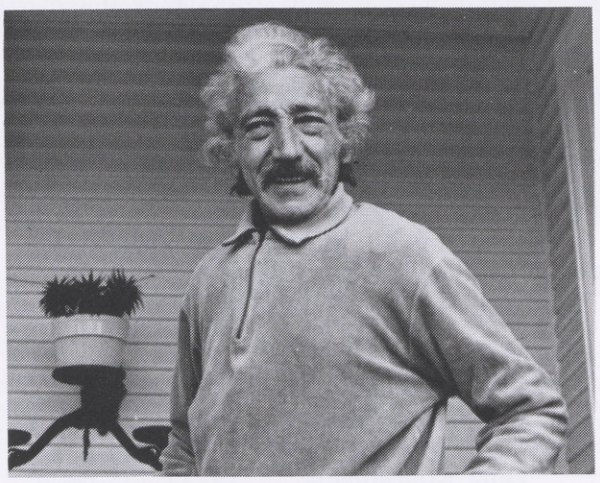
MODERN GREEK STUDIES FOUNDATION ART SHOW AT FORT MASON CENTER

The **Modern Greek Studies Foundation** is sponsoring a special **Exhibition and Sale of Paintings by Bay Area Artists of Hellenic Ancestry** on Friday, **September 22** and Saturday, **September 23, 1995**, at the **Fort Mason Foundation Center,** San Francisco. The exhibit will be held in honor of the late Bay Area artist **Theodore Polos.** Several of his paintings will also be on exhibit.

Friday's 6:00 P.M. opening night ceremonies will include an opportunity to become acquainted with the artists on exhibit and to enjoy a buffet supper. A **$25.00** donation per person to the **Modern Greek Studies Foundation** is requested. The proceeds from this event will benefit the **Center for Modern Greek Studies/Nikos Kazantzakis Chair** at San Francisco State University.

On Saturday, September 23, the exhibit and sale of paintings will be open to the general public from 9A.M. to 5 P.M., free of charge.

For more detailed information call **Caterina Peterson** at (415) 325-4960 (eve.), or **Titika Koplos** at (510) 339-2947 (eve. & wknds).



Artist Theodore Polos

MODERN GREEK STUDIES AT S.F.S.U. GRANTED NEW FACULTY POSITION

An important step for the development of **Modern Greek Studies** at **San Francisco State University** is being taken with the authorization for a new full-time faculty position in Modern Greek Studies, to begin with the **Fall 1996** semester. The new faculty position description calls for a specialist in Modern Greek literature and culture who will teach language and literature courses, and work on developing the academic and cultural programs of the **Center for Modern Greek Studies/Nikos Kazantzakis Chair.**

The University administration is now in the final stages of approval. Once approved, the position will be announced nationally, and then a person will be selected and hired to fill it.

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THEODORE C. POLOS

Theodore C. Polos, an Oakland California resident, was born February 16, 1901 on the Island of Lesbos in Greece. He came to the United States in 1916 and to California in 1922.

Mr. Polos Studied art at the **Mark Hopkins Institute** (San Francisco Art Institute) in 1924 and at the **California College of Arts and Crafts** in Oakland, in 1926.

During his 50-year career in Art, **Mr. Polos** received a phenomenal number of awards and his work is in the permanent collections of many art museums in this country and abroad.

He has exhibited at the **Corcoran Galleries** in Washington, D.C., the **Carnegie** in Pittsburgh, the **Museum of Modern Art** in New York, and **The Art Institute** in Chicago. He has had one man exhibitions at the **San Francisco Museum of Art,** the **M.H. de Young Memorial Museum** (S.F.), the **California Palace of the Legion of Honor** (S.F.) and the **Maxwell Galleries** (S.F.).

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POLOS, continued from page 1

He has received many prestigious awards including: the **Parilia Purchase Award** of the **S.F. Art Association; the** Graphics Award; the **Anne Bremer Memorial Award for Painting;** the **Rosenberg Fellowship** and many other honors including the **Painted Flower Award** from the Oakland Art Museum.

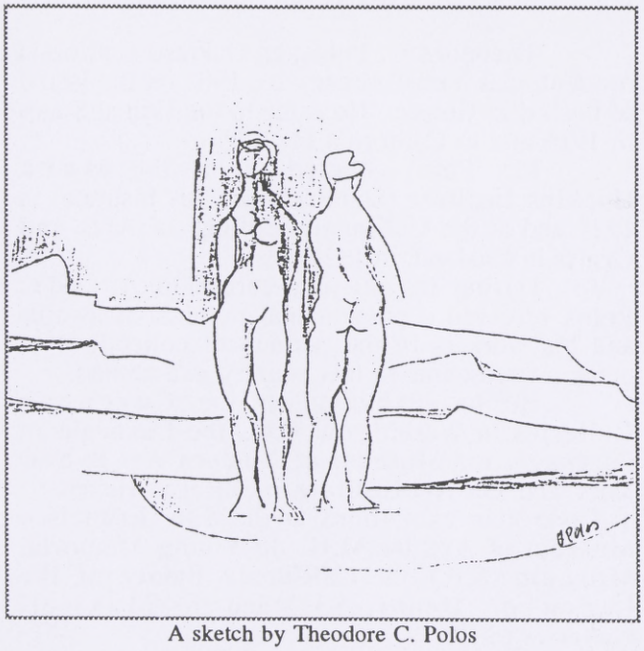
Mr. Polos' artistic reputation did not come quickly or easily. He passed his first crossroads in the year 1917 when he was 15. He was living on a small island in his native Greece, and his father, a Greek Orthodox priest, wanted him to enter theological school. The son flipped a coin. "I said, heads it's America and tails I go to school," he later told a newspaper reporter. "That put me in Boston later that year."

A series of menial jobs ensued, until he came to **Berkeley** in 1924 and was challenged by his brother: "You don't want to be a dishwasher all you life." So his flipped a coin again, and ended up in art school. "I had no ambition to be a great master, but sort of liked to paint", he later explained.

By 1941 he had already won a number of prizes and was hooked — despite the fact that he still had to work night shifts as a dishwasher to earn a living.

His art has been likened to that of **Picasso, Chagall** and **Redon**, referring to the quality of mystery and fantasy in his work. **Alfred Frankenstein** of the **S.F. Chronicle** wrote that "Polos' works emphasize the human figure in abstracted form, like an icon, and the color sometimes reminds one of Byzantine frescos."

Mr. Polos' widow, **Catherine** and his daughter **Iris Stephanie** are also artists and participants in the September 22-23 Exhibit.



A sketch by Theodore C. Polos

MODERN GREEK STUDIES, continued from page 1

The new faculty, like the Kazantzakis Chair, will be in the department of World and Comparative Literature in the College of Humanities.

This is the first time that a full-time faculty position will be entirely devoted to **Modern Greek Studies** at San Francisco State. Since 1981, **Professor Thanasis Maskaleris** has taught Modern Greek literature and has directed the **Center for Modern Greek Studies** part-time, with most of his teaching load in other academic areas. Since his retirement in 1992 **Professor Maskaleris** has continued to teach Modern Greek literature, one course per year, and to direct the Center on a volunteer basis.

Delighted with this significant development, **Prof. Maskaleris** stated: "I hope that, at this turning point for our **Modern Greek Studies Program,** the Greek American community will respond to the University's action with a rekindled interest in the academic and cultural offerings of the **Program,** and that it will also support the planned fund-raising activities of the **Modern Greek Studies Foundation** toward increasing the **Nikos Kazantzakis Chair endowment.**"

— L.G.

OXI DAY CELEBRATION

Sponsored by The United Hellenic American Societies of Northern California

Join the UHAS on November 5, 1995 in its commemoration of the 55th Anniversary of October 28, 1940. A theatrical performance will depict the resistance and struggle of the Greek people during WW II.

Where:	Ascension Cathedral, 4700 Lincoln Ave., Oakland, California
Schedule:	2:30 PM: Social Hour 4:00 PM: Theatrical Performance 5:30 PM: Buffet 6:30 PM: Greek music/dancing
Admission:	$15.00 per person Free for children 12 yrs & under

For information call:

Titika Koplos	(510) 339-2947
Anastasios Piliotis	(510) 709-0476
Kathy Mezinis	(415) 355-0286
Dina Kourumalos	(415) 755-6444

MATCHING CORPORATE GIFTS TO NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Many corporations have a policy of matching their employees' donations to non-profit organizations. If you would like to make a donation to the **Modern Greek Studies Foundation,** please check with your company's personnel or Employee Benefits office to see if they have a Matching Gift Program. If they do, ask them for their matching gift form— which is to be sent to the **Modern Greek Studies Foundation**, along with your personal donation. **The Modern Greek Studies Foundation** is a non-profit, public benefit corporation whose federal I.D.# is **94-2746473.** Some corporations give double the amount donated by an employee.

Here is a partial listing of companies that we know offer these programs. If you don't find your company listed, please take the time to find out if it does match contributions to non-profit organizations. Thank you!

* * *

*Ampex Corp. * Bank of America, NT&SA*
*Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. * Chevron Corp.*
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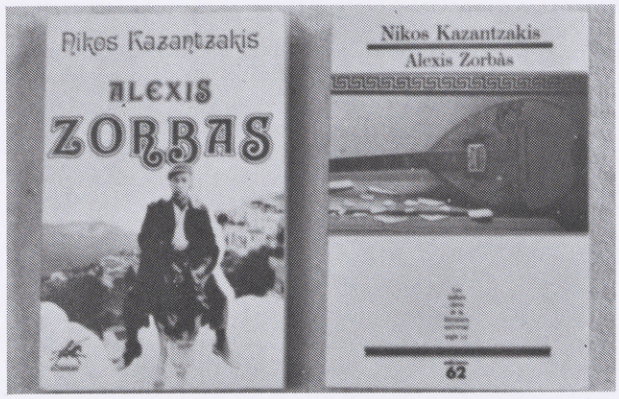

New Zorbas!
Kazantzakis has been translated into almost 100 languages. Shown here are the most recent translations of Zorba The Greek: left - in Romanian; right - in Catalan.

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FALL 1995 COURSES

Beginning Modern Greek
Instructor: Effie Kalafatis HUM 218
Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:35-1:50 P.M.

The Costas & Thetis Pappas Course on Kazantzakis/Modern Greek Literature
Instructor: Thanasis Maskaleris HUM 108
Wednesdays 4:10-6:55 P.M.

The AHEPA Course on Modern Greek History
Instructor: Constantine Danopoulos HSS 317
Thursdays 7:00-9:45 P.M.

* * * * * * *

Classes for the Fall semester begin Wednesday August 30. Members of the community are encouraged to attend the above courses. For additional information, call the Center for Modern Greek Studies at (415) 338-1892.

OUR WISH LIST...

If you would like to help the **Center for Modern Greek Studies** by donating any of the following items, please call us at (415) 338-1892.

* * *

- A set of small (short) Bookcases
- Greek films on Video
- Old Greek-Folk Music
- Books in Greek

Join us today - your support would be greatly appreciated!

○ I would like more information about the Modern Greek Studies Foundation and the Center for Modern Greek Studies. Please add my name to your mailing list.

○ Yes--I want to help: enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution in the amount of $_____

Name_____Tel. No._____

Address_____

City_____State_____Zip_____

Please make your check out and mail to: ***The Modern Greek Studies Foundation.***
P.O. Box 22243, San Francisco, CA 94122. THANK YOU!